

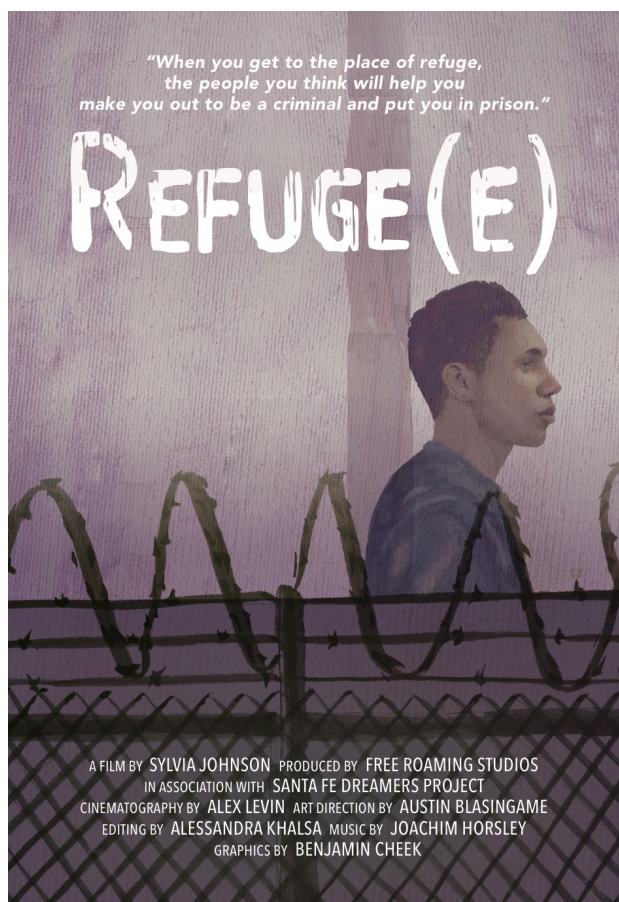
For Immediate Release

SITE SANTA FE PRESENTS

SITElab 13: *Seeking Refuge: Films by director Sylvia Johnson*

October 5, 2019 – January 5, 2020

Screening and Discussion: **Sat. Oct. 26, 3 pm, Free**



Santa Fe, NM, September 9, 2019 — SITE Santa Fe presents a solo exhibition featuring four short films by director Sylvia Johnson from October 5, 2019 through January 5, 2020. Join us for a **screening and discussion with Sylvia Johnson on Saturday, Oct. 26, at 3 pm**; free admission.

New Mexico-based filmmaker Sylvia Johnson uses visual storytelling to increase awareness and understanding of our shared humanity and connection to the natural world. Working with organizations, scientists, artists, and small businesses, Johnson creates films that drive positive change, foster human connection, and support environmental sustainability.

Seeking Refuge highlights four of Johnson's documentary films created since 2014. *Refuge(e)*, *Luz's Story*, *Mermaids Against Plastic*, and *Roaming Wild*. These films raise awareness about conditions asylum seekers face in private prisons (including transgender

women who face additional discrimination), plastic pollution in the oceans, and the ongoing controversy over wild horses on public lands in the American West.

About *Refuge(e)*, *The Santa Fe Reporter* writes:

The film successfully mixes traditional documentary style with illustrated watercolor animations that lend emotional depth to the depiction of personal memories such as the men's nightmarish accounts of trekking through the Central American jungle and their experiences in the Cibola County Correctional Center. The result is a touching exposé of the horrors that might cause a person to leave everything behind, the relief of arriving at the border, and the treatment refugees face in the US immigration system. (Leah Cantor)

Learn more about Sylvia's work at [Free Roaming Studios.com](http://FreeRoamingStudios.com)

About SITElab

SITElab is an experimental exhibition series presented in a newly configured gallery space located off the lobby of SITE's building. SITElab showcases new directions in the work of established and emerging artists and feature new works out of artists' studios, experimental, interdisciplinary, and community-based projects. *Seeking Refuge* is the thirteenth exhibition in the SITElab series.

About SITE Santa Fe

SITE Santa Fe opened in 1995 to present what was then the only international biennial of contemporary art in the United States, and one of only a handful of biennials around the world. From the very beginning, SITE established a commitment to a risk-taking and visionary perspective that continues to drive its programs today. Year-round exhibitions and educational programs encourage the creative and intellectual potential of the audience and uphold the region's tradition of fostering avant-garde art.

As an institution with a year-round contemporary art program, SITE hosts an Art & Culture series of lectures and performances, as well as an extensive education and outreach program for local schools, all of which attract over 20,000 local, national and international visitors annually. Since its launch, SITE has presented over 100 exhibitions — including eleven biennials — of works by over 800 international artists.

SITE's New Building

In October 2017, after a year-long construction and an \$11.5 million capital campaign, SITE re-opened with a bold and expanded building designed by SHoP Architects. This expansion added 14,000 square feet of interior and exterior spaces to SITE's original beer warehouse building, bringing SITE's new square footage to 34,000. SITE's expanded building features a new entrance lobby, an expanded SITElab gallery, a new museum store, a coffee and snack bar, a new Auditorium, an Education Lab, and several outdoor gathering spaces.

Also on View:

Bel Canto: Contemporary Artists Explore Opera is on view through January 5, 2020, an exhibition that examines themes of race, gender and class within the stories, traditions, architecture, and music of

opera. The exhibition features the work of Vasco Araújo, Suzanne Bocanegra, Candida Höfer, William Kentridge, Guillermo Kuitca, Yinka Shonibare CBE, Matthias Schaller, and Bill Viola.

Among the works included are a film that provides a post-colonial take on Verdi; large-scale photographs of iconic opera houses that explore the architecture and order of social space; multiple installations that investigate the stories, music, sets and costumes of opera; drawings and collages that abstract opera design; and an installation of a fictional diva's dressing room that examines gender roles. The first large-scale exhibition of its kind, *Bel Canto* will engage opera aficionados and novices alike, offering unexpected glimpses behind the scenes and deep into the cultures and histories that have influenced this iconic art form over the years.

sitesantafe.org

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